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BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR..... 1957

(Including the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector)

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COUNCILLORS:-

CHAIRMAN..... Colonel J.L.Jones J.P

VICE-CHAIRMAN:-..... Miss A.G. Biddlecombe

F.J. Ainsworth.

Mrs. M.P. Andrews.

E.G. Bailey.

F.B. Ball.

Capt. G.M. Bateman.

J.F. Brown.

K.R. Browning.

Lt. Col. A.L. Cameron, D.S.O., M.C.

Mrs. M. Chenery.

E.E. Cossins.

A.B.C. Davis.

P.L. Farquharson.

R.H. Goodman.

Lt. Col. J.G.M.B. Gough.

B.A.S. Hicks.

E.K. Hooper.

C.B.O. Jones.

D.W. Keen.

A.E. Lane.

F.H.B. Mainwaring-Burton.

A.T.E. Marsh.

R.E.F. Parsons.

The Hon. M.B. Portman.

Mrs. J. Raymond.

C.B.C. Roe.

Lt. Col. E.W. Seymour, J.P.

Lt. Col. R.J.N. Solly.

Rev. Dr. R.M. Taylor.

L. Tory.

F.W. Waterman.

Major G.T. Wright.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of:-

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.
School Medical Officer.
Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum.
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban.
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR with combined duties as Surveyor.

G.S.C. Udall, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.F.S., (Eng.)

ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

M. Stockley. Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Public Health Department,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne.

TO:-

The Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:-

In this second year of operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations there was in general a good response from food handlers towards the new requirements of the law. Certain small bakeries commenced work of a high standard likely to bear comparison on completion with any similar premises anywhere in the country. They were unfortunately in competition with one or two others who made no attempt to comply with the law.

The district had the unfortunate distinction of a death from food poisoning. The germ responsible is one commonly found causing boils, septic scratches, infected finger nail beds and many other more serious infections, and some of the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations are specifically designed to minimise the possibility of transference of such germs to food.

The provisions requiring food workers to notify staphylococcal infections is one such, though this must necessarily fail in the great majority of cases where the victim is unaware of the exact nature of his infection.

Another provision of a more practical nature requires all food handlers to whom the Regulations apply to cover open cuts and abrasions by a waterproof dressing. It is feared that this simple and very reasonable requirement is frequently neglected.

G.B. Hopkins.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres..... 61,717

Population as estimated by Registrar General..... 13,480

Rateable value at 1st April, 1957.....£94,984.

Product of 1d rate at 1st April, 1957..... £363.15.6.

Number of inhabited houses..... 2,918

LIVE BIRTHS..... 180. RATE..... 16.6

	Total	Male	Female.	Blandford. Rural.	England & Wales.	Administrative County.
Legitimate.....	171	87	84	16.6	16.1	14.1
Illegitimate.....	9	5	4			

STILL BIRTHS (Rate per 1,000 live and still births)

	Total.	Male	Female	Blandford Rural	England & Wales	Administrative County.
Legitimate.....	8	3	5	0.6		
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-			

DEATHS (All causes)..... 117. RATE..... 12.1

Total	Male	Female	Blandford Rural	England & Wales	Administrative County
117	62	55	12.1	11.5	11.9

DEATHS (from Puerperal causes)

Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis..... Nil
Other Puerperal causes..... Nil

INFANT MORTALITY	Total	Male	Female.
Legitimate.....	3	1	2
Illegitimate.....	1	1	-

DEATHS FROM:-

Cancer (all ages)..... 20
Measles(all ages)..... Nil
Whooping cough..... Nil
Diarrhoea (Under 2)... Nil

SECTION A
NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area..... 61, 717
Population..... 13, 480

DEATHS. 117 deaths have been assigned to the district by the Registrar General, an increase of 34 on the previous year, yielding a standardised rate of 12.1, which is rather high for a rural district. There is no reason to believe that this is anything more than a chance fluctuation, though a large one, based as it is upon relatively small numbers.

BIRTHS. 180 births have been assigned to the district by the Registrar General, an increase of 19 on the previous year, yielding a standardised rate of 16.6, a figure higher than the national rate and appreciably above the county rate.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no maternal deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY. The number of infants dying under the age of one year was 4. Such a small number does not justify the calculations of a rate.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. No action was taken for the removal of any old persons in need of care and attentiont during the year.

SECTION B

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

The Public Health Laboratory service at Dorchester continues to give the district generous service. The Laboratory undertakes the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice-cream, and other foods. It also examines specimens for diagnosis in the case of infectious or suspected infectious diseases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service of the district is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating day and night from Castleman House, Blandford.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Dorset County Council provide an ante-natal clinic and an Infant Welfare Centre once a fortnight. These are held at the Red Cross Hall in Blandford.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The County Home Help Scheme has provided a service in Blandford and surrounding district. It is doing excellent work.

DISINFECTION

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Chief Public Health Inspector's staff.

SECTION C

Prevalance of and Control over Infection and Other Diseases.

Scarlet fever.....	14
Whooping cough.....	48
Measles.....	306
Pneumonia.....	19
Erysipelas.....	2
Food poisoning.....	8
Tuberculosis.....	4
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2
	404

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year, the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Male.....	16	Male.....	7
Female.....	13	Female.....	1

FOOD POISONING.

During the year eight cases of food poisoning were notified.

1. A family of five was taken ill. Circumstancial evidence pointed to a fermented blown tin of peaches. It was not proven.
2. Two children at Blandford Camp suffered from vomiting, sickness and high temperature. Notification was received too late for investigation purposes.
3. A child of six years died in Christchurch Hospital. No information was received as to the source of infection, although thorough investigations were made.

Notification of Infectious Diseases. In Age Groups.

AGES.	Scarlet fever.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas,	Food Poisoning	Tuberculosis.
Under 1.	1	2	6	2	-	2	-
1	-	1	19	1	-	-	-
2	-	7	25	-	-	-	-
3.	-	4	33	-	-	-	-
4.	-	6	36	-	-	-	-
5- 9.	10	25	163	-	-	-	-
10-14.	2	3	20	1	-	1	-
15-24.	-	-	3	1	-	2	-
25 and over.	1	-	1	12	2	3	4
Age Unknown.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
TOTALS.	14	48	306	19	2	8	4

SECTION D

STATISTICAL TABLES..... 1957

	Causes of Death	Male.	Female.	Total.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease.....	1	-	1
4.	Dipththeria.....	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8.	Measles.....	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	-	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	2	-	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	6	5	11
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes.....	1	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	10	8	18
18.	Coronary disease, angina.....	10	3	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	2	3
20.	Other heart diseases.....	8	17	25
21.	Other circulatory disease.....	1	-	1
22.	Influenza.....	1	2	3
23.	Pneumonia.....	3	3	6
24.	Bronchitis.....	3	1	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system...	-	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	2	-	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.....	1	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.....	2	-	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations.....	1	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	3	7	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.....	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents.....	3	-	3
35.	Suicide.....	1	-	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
	All Causes.....	62	55	117

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

WATER SUPPLY

Water Source.	Villages Supplied	Properties Served.	Population served.
Blandford Borough.	Blandford St. Mary. Charlton Marshall Spetisbury Pimperne Langton Long	Whole - except for few isolated.	2300 approximately.
Shaftesbury R.D.C.	Shroton Stepleton Farrington	Whole - except for few isolated.	430 approximately
Bryanston Borehole (Council controlled)	Bryanston Durweston Stourpaine.	Whole - except for few isolated.	1220 approximately
Wimborne and Cranborne R.D.C.	Farnham.	Village only - about 40.	120 approximately
Milborne.	Whole of Winterborne Valley. Milborne Milton Abbas Hilton	All properties except a few isolated.	3000 approximately
Stubhampton.	When in service whole of Tarrant Valley. Chettle Farnham.	Not yet in service. Work in hand.	Nil at present

At the end of the year, the Tarrant Valley water scheme was nearing completion and should come into operation during 1958.

With its completion only two small areas remain unserved by water mains - Thornicombe and West End, Spetisbury, both containing 15 - 20 houses.

Fewer bacteriological samples were taken during the year, but a few more chemicals were obtained. The amount of natural carbon dioxide in the water at Bryanston Borehole was thought to be causing corrosion of water tanks and cylinders, but similar trouble has been experienced in other parts of the district.

Water Samples taken during 1957

Classification.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total
Council owned and supplying public.....	34	4	38
Private estate supplying public.....	11	9	20
Private estate supplying Council houses.....	1	8	9
Private wells.....	7	10	17
Other local authorities supplying through Council's system....	9	2	11
Public supplies not controlled by the Council.....	14	-	14
	76	33	109

Chemical samples taken - all sources.... 14
Inferior (Metals etc.) - 7

DRAINAGE

With the exception of a few more properties connected to the sewers at Milborne St. Andrew and Blandford St. Mary, the drainage arrangements of the district remain as unsatisfactory as previously. The pre-war Council houses at Milborne have still to be connected to the main sewer.

Several villages urgently need sewage systems, notably Pimperne, Shroton and to a lesser extent, the other larger villages in the district.

Eleven chokes occurred in the sewers, due to wrongful use of the sewer for disposing of household refuse instead of the refuse collection service.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

Winterborne Kingston tip came back into use during the year and all refuse deposited is being burnt immediately.

The tip at Anderson was set on fire during the early summer, and burnt until November. This is now closed but soil is at present being deposited for covering down purposes.

Again very few complaints regarding collections have been made during the year and great credit is due to the two workmen, Messrs. Hall and Johnson, for the manner in which they have stood up to the ever-increasing use made of the service with cheerful willingness.

Salvage figures are 14% better than 1956, despite generally lower prices and are the highest since the Council started selling salvaged materials.

The salvage figures for 1957 are:-

Waste paper.....	£194.19.3
Rags.....	35.16.2
Non-ferrous materials...	43.16.10
Scrap iron. (A new venture).....	14.19.6.
	£289.11.9.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS

There was a big reduction in the number of complaints received, 56 as compared with 83 the previous year, but the number of total visits in respect of these increased from 136 to 143.

Complaints were made up as follows:-

Housing.....	18
Drainage.....	14
Infestations.....	9
Refuse.....	4
Water.....	5
Miscellaneous.....	6
	56

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Most of the work under this heading has been devoted to the few bakeries and some of the licenced houses not yet complying with the regulations. Progress is slow but some results have been achieved.

One case of food poisoning occurred which affected the whole of one household at Milton Abbas. The cause was traced to a faulty canned food product.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number of Factories and Workshops on Register at the end of the year:-

(a)	With mechanical power.....	29
(b)	Without mechanical power.....	11
(c)	Other premises coming within the Act.....	25
(d)	Deletions from Register during the year...	2
(e)	Number of inspections made.....	70
(f)	Number of informal notices.....	7
(g)	Number of notices complied with.....	7
(h)	Number of outworkers on Register.....	0

RODENT CONTROL

	Council Premises	Private Premises.	Business Premises.	Agricultural Premises.
Total number of visits made..	83	1701	188	280
Total number of premises inspected:-				
(a) On complaint.....	1	96	1	7
(b) On survey.....	17	361	54	67
Number of premises treated:-				
Rats.....	3	210	2	18
Mice.....	-	41	-	5

Infestation reached a high level during the last few months of 1957.

Various causes have been put forward, one being apathy to renewal of contracts with the Agricultural Executive Committee. Certainly, whatever the cause, the results were felt throughout the district, pointing out that if our efforts are relaxed infestations will get as bad as they ever were.

It should be our aim to keep all infestations to a minimum as only by doing so can the cost of the service be kept within bounds. It is a fallacy to assume that if few rodents are in evidence, control is no longer necessary.

The number of treatments carried out was 284 as compared with 171 in 1956

DETAILS OF VISITS

Nuisances and Complaints.....	143
Refuse disposal.....	127
Rats and Mice.....	2207
Infectious diseases.....	17
Disinfestations.....	15
River pollution.....	22
Food poisoning.....	13
Meat and Foods.....	85
Water Supplies General.....	80
Water samples.....	113
Sewerage schemes.....	348
Sewerage samples.....	9
Housing Acts.....	410
Caravans.....	45
Old People.....	14
Factories and Workshops.....	45
Rights of Way.....	4
Miscellaneous.....	75
Meetings attended.....	79

HOUSING

A. Number of new houses completed during the year:-

(1) By Local Authority:

(a) With State Assistance for rehousing under Housing Act, 1936, and for overcrowding..... 20

(b) With State Assistance for some other purposes..... -

(c) Without State Assistance..... -

(2) By other persons:

(a) With State assistance..... 4
(b) Without State Assistance..... 16

B. Number of new houses commenced during the year but not completed:

(1) By Local Authority with State Assistance..... 16
(2) By other persons:

(a) With State Assistance..... 2
(b) Without State Assistance..... 9

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications for grants for the improvement of houses continue to be received and details for 1957 are as under:-

Applications received... 24
Applications approved... 23 involving 33 dwellings
Applications disapproved
(Residence Qualification)
1.
Amount allocated.....£7,730
Housing units completed
during the year.....31.

G.S.C. UDALL

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector